

## **Gabrielle Alamillo**

My name is Gabrielle Alamillo and I currently attend the University of California Santa Cruz. I major in English literature with a minor in Politics. As a summer intern with the City of Torrance, I have been working on the city's first annual report, which has been exciting and very enlightening. Coming into this internship I definitely did not expect to learn as much as I did about city government. This experience has educated me and given me such an insight into the inner workings of a city. I feel far more educated about not just how Torrance works, but also how my city and other cities work. I often find myself lecturing others about city government and smile knowing that I've actually learned so much. This internship has definitely exceeded my expectations. I look around my city and others, and realize that everything in some way or another has been influenced and guided by city government.

I transferred from West Los Angeles College and Santa Monica College to UCSC, and I find myself at the end of my undergraduate career. It has been a great adventure with ups and downs, but I look forward to my next step in life. I may never have considered city government as a career choice until this summer. I always wanted a career that not only satisfied me financially, but also one that would make me feel like I've actually made a difference in someone's life. My next step in life, after I graduate, is to prepare myself for the LSAT, denoting that my current objective is to attend law school. One particular meeting that we, the summer interns, had was with the city manager. He explained to me that law and city government go hand in hand and as an attorney I may just have some career opportunities within city government.

I don't quite know yet which path my life may lead, but I have become so much more aware about the community I live in. This internship has motivated me to take a more active role in my city's government, because I've come to realize that they truly work hard to make my life better as a member of my community.